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REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 4, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by August 4, 2006.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 10-12 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.85(p)(5) for not including reference characters mentioned in the description and under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims, specifically, the bow structure made of a single ribbon and single tie-strip of claim 9. Claim 9 was objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 3, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. 2001/0035453 to Felton.

Claims 4, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felton as applied to claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,777,066 to White et al. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felton in view of White et al and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,826,225 to Hagenbuch. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felton and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,776,571 to Michlin et al. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felton and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,155,481 to Rawlings. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Felton and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,850,963 to Chang. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felton and further in view of Rawlings.

Looking first at the objections to the drawings, the specification has been amended on page 5 to add the reference numerals "92" and "95". Claim 9 has been canceled.

The specification has been amended further to add standard sectional headings.

The claims have been amended to address the formal rejections under Section 112, second paragraph.

To more clearly define the present invention over the cited references, claim 1 has been amended to add the features of claims 3 and 4, relating to the closing means and the means for creating the bow. Amended claim 1 also includes the feature that "the means for creating the decorative bow is disposed in a flat, laid-out position along the full length of the self-adhesive strip of the closing means".

The Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references, whether viewed alone or in combination, provides all of the features of amended claim 1.

Specifically, as the Examiner admits in the Office Action, the primary reference to Felton does not disclose the features of the means for creating a bow.

The patent to White, cited in combination with Felton in support of the rejection of claim 4, does not disclose or suggest that the means for creating the bow are disposed in a flat, laid-out position along the length of an adhesive strip of the closing means. Rather, White discloses a gift bag with slots and openings for guiding through of the ribbons; an adhesive strip for closing the bag is not provided.

Because amended claim 1 defines features that are not disclosed by Felton, the rejection under Section 102 must be withdrawn. Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

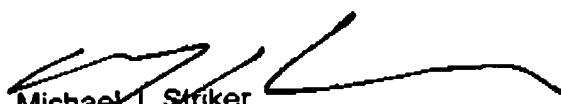
In addition, amended claim 1 cannot be viewed as obvious over the combination of Felton and White, since both references fail to suggest the above features of claim 1. When establishing obviousness under Section 103, it is not pertinent whether the prior art device possess the functional characteristics of the claimed invention, if the reference does not describe or suggest its structure. *In re Mills*, 16 USPQ 2d 1430, 1432-33 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 5-8, and 10-12 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 27233
103 East Neck Road
Huntington, New York 11743
631-549-4700